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City Of Newport News

Virginia 23607

2400 Washington Avenue

(757) 926-8411

Fax (757) 926-3503

Office Of The City Manager

March 23, 2004

Docket Clerk
U.S. DOT Dockets, Rm. PL-401
Department of Transportation
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20590-0001

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To Whom It May Concern:

RE: MARAD 2004-17166 - 16

The Department of Planning has reviewed the draft Environmental Assessment for the Transfer of National Defense Reserve Fleet Vessels from the James River Reserve Fleet for Disposal at Able UK Facilities, Teesside, U.K. The City favors the removal of the reserve fleet, because of potential for water quality impacts on the James River and Newport News local creeks, if they remain.

City staff noted the discussion of the contingency hazardous waste response plans in the assessment. Please notify the City, if any leakage of hazardous waste threatens our shoreline.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ed Maroney".
Ed Maroney
City Manager

EM:kj

C: /My Documents/ EA Draft National Defense Reserve Fleet Vessels for DOT.wpd

Copy to: Assistant City Manager, NAM
Director of Planning